

REMARKS

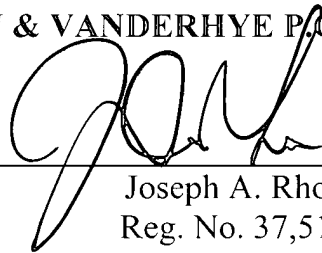
This is in response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2003. Responsive to the Section 112 rejection, claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claim 1, for example, has been amended to state that the second and fourth gases are of O₂. This is clearly supported by the instant specification (e.g., pg. pg. 14, lines 1 and 22; pg. 18, lines 1 and 21; and Tables 1 & 2). Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Section 112 rejection has been overcome.

No art rejection has been made. Thus, all claims are now in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____



Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100